exist for Members of Parliament, Defence, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Delhi Administration, Posts & Telegraphs employees, Judges, Journalists and Government of India Press employees, etc. A separate pool was carved out in 1988 for the Rajya Sabha Secretariat employees by placing 244 houses from general pool for administration by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. This was in addition to 130 houses which were already under the control of Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The objective in creating separate pools is to enable better percentage of satisfaction for staff of this designated organisations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The comparative satisfaction of Rajya Sabha Secretariat employees in various types is found to be better as compared to the satisfaction available for the general pool employees.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) There is no such proposal.

Authorisation to TRIFED for procurement and support price operations

@431. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR.

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) and other cooperatives have been authorised to take up the procurement and support price operations in paddy, wheat and other cereals and pulses;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that collection and marketing of paddy and wheat etc. from tribal regions are unorganised and unsystematic; if so, what steps are being taken to improve the collection of these products?

@ Previously Unstarred Question 183 transferred from the 26th December, 1989.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) TRIFED has been appointed as an agency of Food Corporation of India (FCI) for procurement of wheat and paddy from tribal areas in the country. It has also been authorised to undertake procurement of coarse grains, pulses and oilseeds in tribal areas. This is done with a view to effectively reach the benifits under price support schemes to tribals.

(c) In the past there were some problems as the purchases were made from the mandis/regulated markets located at blocks, taluk or district headquarters. Now TRIFED makes procurement of wheat, paddy, coarse grains, pulses and oilseeds through State Tribal Cooperative Corporations/Federations from the tribal growers at "Heats" which are the traditional weekly markets of tribals. In view of this the collection & marketing of the tribal produce had been streamlined.

Raising of ceilling limit for payment of bonus

432. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the out-dated provision in the Bonus Act putting the eligibility limit on the income of Rs. 2,500 p.m. would deny bonus to a large segment of workers of the public sector particularly those covered by the productivity-linked bonus scheme; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to raise the ceiling limit in view of the increased emoluments of the workers of the Public Sector?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Payment of Bonus Act was amended in 1985 increasing the eligibility limit from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 2500 p. m. thus bringing a larger segment of workers under its coverage.

(b) There is no immediate proposal to raise the ceiling limit.

Opening of Sub-Office of ESI at Coimbatore

433. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite Government's decision to open a Sub-Office of ESI at Coimbatore long back, the decision has not been implemented till date;

(b) whether Government are aware that this delay is causing untold hardships to the workers; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to expedite the opening of the said Sub-Office?.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Although the ESI Corporation had earlier approved, in principle, the setting up of a Sub-Regional Office (SRO) at Coimbatore, the SRO could not be opened so far due to certain administrative problems relating to posting of staff. The problem has, however, since been sorted out. The Corporation has designated an officer as Incharge of the Sub-Regional Office. The proposal for hiring of accommodation has also been approved. The SRO is, therefore, expected to start functioning as soon as transfer of records and other necessary arrangements are completed.

Vacation of encroachment in Basant Village

434. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1179 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 1989 and state:

(a) whether Government had ordered for taking action against encroachers of public thoroughfare in Basant Village, Delhi as early as on 3rd March, 1986;

(b) if so, whether the said encroachment has been vacated so far; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the new Government are taking any action to implement the decision?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

435. *[Transferred to the 26th December, 1989]*

Repairing of quarters occupied by Press Workers in GIP colony in Howrah

436. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Press Workers residing at GIP colony, Santragachi, Howrah, West Bengal for repair and renovation of their quarters;

(b) whether the condition of the said quarters are so bad as to threaten the safety of the residents; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The buildings are in a dilapidated condition and major repairs are required. Suitable action is under consideration.

Restarting of Mangala Express

437. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restart the Cochin-Mangalore-Nizamuddin Mangala Express which was started in 1977 and discontinued last year; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to help the passengers from Delhi to Kerala as the existing seating capacity by any train is not adequate?